

“Dementia Focus”

Developing a Local Centre for Expertise in Dementia

**Minutes of the Executive Committee held at UEA, Norwich
on Monday 4th April 2005**

Present:

Dyllis Faife (Chair)	Norfolk Social Services Department (Operations Manager)
Moira Clare	Suffolk Social Care Services
Ann McDonald (Minutes)	UEA (School of Social Work and Psychosocial Studies)
Emily Millington Smith	Alzheimer’s Society
John Hawkins	Service Manager (OPMH) Cambridge Locality
Wendy Roberts	Age Concern Suffolk

Apologies were received from:

Dr. Tom Dening	Fulbourn Hospital, Cambridge (Consultant Psychiatrist)
Becky Heath (Minutes)	UEA (School of Social Work and Psychosocial Studies)
Dr. Charles Morris	Julian Hospital, Norwich (Consultant Psychiatrist)

Agenda Items

1. Minutes and Matters Arising
2. Dementia Care Mapping Feedback – MC
3. Research Topics/Dementia Focus Website – AMcD
4. Contact from Uganda
5. Dementia Collaborative and Validation Course – MC

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

Wendy Roberts is retiring from Age Concern in June. Gordon Slack, Team Leader, Younger People with Dementia ACCESS Team will replace her.

EMS mentioned that “The Archers” is now linking into the Memory Clinic. Hope that the power of the media could be well used.

EMS looking to provide alternative therapies at a reasonable cost. In strategic plan that the service should be extended across the county. Cambridge – recent guidance on using complementary therapies in mental health: some trained practitioners. Suffolk – carers grant used to provide services to people with dementia as there is a benefit from this to carers. There was a discussion about the difficulties around securing funding and how the group might take things further.

2. Dementia Care Mapping

Suffolk had 17 out of 30 places. Very successful. Feedback was very good, but venue was poor. Diverse group: CSCI/Private Homes/Health and Social Care staff. Benefits of networking across the region. Will be a regional meeting in June/July. Judith Farmer to do a longer term evaluation. Funding was through WDC grant for pump-priming – evaluation will feed into strategic agenda, and will improve integrated working. Future possibility is a course for training the trainers. Brief summary to be put on website: DF to communicate with Judith Farmer to provide info. Conference in Suffolk on 7th December on person centred care.

3. Research Topics/Dementia Focus Website

a) Public information group in Norfolk:

Mary Highe – to e asked to give info for Becky for website

b) Research ideas emailed by MC:

MC – Gov has ringfenced £60million for research. Each authority can only put in one bid on partnership. MC to seek further info from Suffolk with Dementia Focus as partner group.

c) Research ideas emailed by CM:

Dementia in acute care also recognised by JH

d) Interim Report to Department of Health for Alone with Dementia in Rural Areas:

To be emailed to members of Dementia Focus

e) Other:

Letter could be sent to local MPs for their attention – link to interest in Mental Capacity Bill highlighted by EMS. Every MP circulated from National Pensions Convention therefore Older People on political agenda. 2 issues identified from Alone with Dementia research: getting views from hidden carers and older people themselves. DF to contact Esther Bolton.

f) Dementia Care Mapping – see (2)

g) Assistive Technology:

Future developments re: assistive technology to go on website

h) Enquiries from website from CSCI working group and new specialist day centre in Peterborough: Positive to have a response to website. Neither if these initiatives were known about.

The meeting agreed to seek out further funding to extend/build upon Alone with Dementia in Rural Areas.

4. Contact from Uganda

Interested in work being undertaken with families of younger people with dementia. Contact made with Kim Cowley.

5. Dementia Collaborative and Validation Course

MC feedback that Suffolk has purchased 2 places on the Validation Course in lamington Spa – will become trainers (info to be put on website). It is the first UK practitioners course.

MC also circulated information about the Northern Dementia Services Collaborative- to discuss at the next meeting. For future consideration: possibility of a joint seminar to feedback on the Alone with Dementia in Rural Areas Research and Dementia Care Mapping.

6. AOB

Mention was made of the EEDA conference in June – thought to be a useful forum.

A review of Dementia Focus membership was discussed and to be put on agenda for next meeting. Currently:

WR, MC and AD from Suffolk

TD, JH from Cambridgeshire

EMS, CM, DF from Norfolk

AMcD and nominee, Amanda Howe from UEA

Review of membership to be discussed at next meeting specifically in relation to CSCI. BH to check possible new members from Cambridgeshire with JH.

DF to invite Judith Farmer to attend next meeting.

Date for next meeting:

13/06/05 10am – 12noon UEA